

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 06056 031659Z

53

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

IO-03 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

DHA-02 /041 W

----- 045342

O 031620Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3417

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6056

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG PINS US PFOR

SUBJECT: ABORTIVE COUP:

EVENTS OF JULY 2

REF: KINSHASA 6001

1. SPEED WITH WHICH "PLOT" DEVELOPMENTS ARE UNFOLDING COMPLICATES ALREADY DIFFICULT TASK OF TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE. UNTIL DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF JULY 2 (REFTEL) IT WAS POSSIBLE TO ENTERTAIN NUMBER OF HYPOTHESES (NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE) TO EFFECT MOBUTU MIGHT SIMPLY BE UP TO SOMETHING. WAS HE USING POSSIBLY INNOCUOUS INDISCRETIONS BY GENERAL FALLU AND ARMY OFFICERS TO INSTILL GREATER LOYALTY AND DISCIPLINE IN ARMY? WAS HE PRUDENTLY DISTANCING HIMSELF FROM CIA IN LIGHT OF INVESTIGATIONS OF ITS OPERATIONS? WAS HE STRIKING BOLD ANTI-IMPERIALIST POSTURE SO AS TO IMPROVE HIS CHANCES OF PERSUADING OAU CHIEFS OF STATE THIS MONTH IN KAMPALA THAT CABINDA SHOULD HAVE CHANCE FOR INDEPENDENCE? WAS HE ATTEMPTING TO BRING HIS OWN CONSERVATIVES TO HEEL? WAS HE MAKING CASE FOR EXPELLING AMBASSADOR HINTON?

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 06056 031659Z

2. NOW I BELIEVE WE MUST ASSUME THAT MOBUTU FEELS

GENUINELY THREATENED. WHATEVER THEIR PROVOCATION, JULY 2 MEASURES HAVE WEAKENED MOBUTU. HIS PRESTIGE WITH MILITARY LEADERS HAS PROBABLY SUFFERED, HIS POLITICAL FRIENDS IN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND POLITICAL BUREAU MUST BE IN DISARRAY, AND HIS WARNINGS THAT MORE PURGES LIE AHEAD CAN ONLY BE UNSETTLING FOR MILITARY AND POLITICIANS ALIKE. MOBUTU CANNOT HAVE TAKEN JULY 2 DECISIONS LIGHTLY.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR US ARE IMPORTANT. LINK BETWEEN "PLOT" AND US HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY INTRODUCTION OF NDELE INTO CAST OF CHARACTERS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, PAST CHARGES HERE OF USG INVOLVEMENT IN PLOT ARE BOUND TO TAKE ON ADDED SIGNIFICANCE BOTH IN MOBUTU'S EYES AND IN THOSE OF ANY INTERNAL ENEMIES NOW THAT "PLOT" IS TAKING ON SHAPE OF WIDESPREAD CONSPIRACY. WITHOUT A MOVE ON OUR PART WE MAY HAVE BECOME OBJECT OF GENUINE CONCERN TO MOBUTU. NOT ONLY MAY HE BELIEVE USG HAS "PLOTTED", BUT HIS ACTIONS AND CHARGES MAY HAVE GIVEN DISGRUNTLED ELEMENTS IN ZAIRE NEW REASON TO BELIEVE US MIGHT IN FACT SUPPORT A MOVE AGAINST MOBUTU, THUS ENCOURAGING THE VERY THING MOBUTU IS SEEKING TO SQUELCH.

4. IN PAST, CRISES SUCH AS PRESENT ONE HAVE TENDED TO COOL OFF AS MOBUTU CALMED DOWN OR TURNED TO OTHER THINGS. NEXT FEW DAYS SHOULD TELL IF THIS IS AGAIN TO BE THE PATTERN.

ANDREW

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PLOTS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUL 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975KINSHA06056  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750231-0222  
**From:** KINSHASA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750788/aaaadaxv.tel  
**Line Count:** 89  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 75 KINSHASA 6001  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ABORTIVE COUP: EVENTS OF JULY 2  
**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, CG, US, CIA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006